

Foundation - 6 Students

Acceptable Use Agreement for internet and digital technologies

William Ruthven Primary School believes the teaching of safe and responsible online behaviour is essential in the lives of students and is best taught in partnership between home and school.

21st century students spend increasing amounts of time online, learning and collaborating. To be safe online and to gain the greatest benefit from the opportunities provided through an online environment, students need to do the right thing by themselves and others, particularly when not directly supervised.

Safe and responsible online behaviour is explicitly taught at our school and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home.

Some online activities are illegal and as such will be reported to police.

To assist students, staff and parents we publish this Acceptable Use Agreement each year. It is an expectation that those persons who are going to use the digital technologies provided by William Ruthven Primary School will read and sign the agreement in Part B and return this to school at the beginning of the school year.

Teachers should:

- discuss the agreement with their students and ensure they understand each dot point
- develop a classroom environment that promotes safe and responsible behaviour online

Parents/carers should:

- read and understand what the school will do to support the safe and responsible use of digital technology (Part A)
- read through the agreement and discuss it with their child to ensure they understand each dot point (Family Information section – which can be found on the WRPS website)
- consider how they might support safe and responsible behaviour online at home (Supported by the Family information developed and delivered by the school)

Students should:

- read through the agreement with their parents/carers and their teacher to ensure they fully understand what they are agreeing to (Part A)
- negotiate appropriately through representative groups or directly with teachers and parents/carers about issues or changes to improve the agreement
- sign and abide by the agreement (Part B)

Allan Waterson

Principal

Part A - School support for the safe and responsible use of digital technologies

William Ruthven Primary School uses the internet and digital technologies as teaching and learning tools. We see the internet and digital technologies as valuable resources, but acknowledge they must be used responsibly.

Your child has been asked to agree to use the internet and digital technologies responsibly at school. Parents/carers should be aware that the nature of the internet is such that full protection from inappropriate content can never be guaranteed.

At William Ruthven Primary School we:

- have policies in place that outline the values of the school and expected behaviours when students use digital technology and the internet
- provide a filtered internet service
- provide access to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's search engine Connect which can be used to direct students to websites that have been teacher recommended and reviewed
- provide supervision and direction in online activities and when using digital technologies for learning
- support students in developing digital literacy skills
- provide students upon entrance to Grade 3 with a USB data storage device for school use (if the USB is lost or broken it is the responsibility of the student to replace it)– this storage device is only to contain files relating to school work. Students are expected to retain their USB through their time at this school.
- have a cybersafety program at the school which is reinforced across the school
- use digital technologies for educational purposes (e.g. podcasts, videos or photos from excursions)
- provide support to parents/carers through the WRPS website and updates in the school newsletter.
- work with students to outline and reinforce the expected behaviours in the use of the internet and digital technologies.

Acceptable Use Agreement for internet and digital technologies

Part B - Student Agreement

When I use digital technology I agree to:

- be a safe, responsible and ethical user whenever and wherever I use it
- support others by being respectful in how I communicate with them and never write or participate in online bullying (this includes forwarding messages and supporting others in harmful, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviour)
- talk to a teacher if I feel uncomfortable or unsafe online or see others participating in unsafe, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviour
- seek to understand the terms and conditions of websites and online communities and be aware that content I upload or post creates a digital footprint
- protect my privacy rights and those of other students by not giving out personal details including full names, telephone numbers, addresses and images
- use the internet for educational purposes and use the equipment properly
- use social networking sites for educational purposes and only as directed by teachers
- abide by copyright procedures when using content on websites (ask permission to use images, text, audio and video and cite references where necessary)
- think critically about other users' intellectual property and how I use content posted on the internet.
- not interfere with network security, the data of another user or attempt to log into the network with a user name or password of another student
- not reveal my password to anyone except the system administrator or the teacher
- not bring or download unauthorised programs, including games, to the school or run them on school computers

When I use cameras or other mobile electronic devices I agree to:

- only take photos and record sound or video when it is part of an approved lesson
- seek permission from individuals involved before taking photos, recording sound or videoing them (including teachers)
- seek appropriate (written) permission from individuals involved before publishing or sending photos, recorded sound or video to anyone else or to any online space
- be respectful in the photos I take or video I capture and never use these as a tool for bullying.
- hand my mobile phone in to the Office during class time for security and safe keeping.

This Acceptable Use Agreement also applies during school excursions, camps and extra-curricula activities. I acknowledge and agree to follow these rules. I understand that my access to the internet and mobile technology at school will be renegotiated if I do not act responsibly.

Please Sign and Return to Class Teacher

I have read the Acceptable Use Agreement carefully and understand the significance of the conditions and agree to abide by these conditions. I understand that any breach of these conditions will result in internet and digital technology access privileges being suspended or revoked.

Student Name

Year Level

Student Signature

Parent/Carer Signature

Date

USB – Memory Stick Issued YES/NO (Year 3 or New Students Year 4 to 6)

If you have any concerns about this agreement or ideas for making the agreement better contact (ICT Co-ordinator)
For further Support with online issues students can call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800. Parents/carers call Parentline
132289 or visit <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/report.aspx>

Family Information to support the understanding of the Acceptable Use Agreement for internet and digital technologies.

Family Information – Advice to support the safe and responsible use of digital technologies at home

At school the internet is mostly used to support teaching and learning. At home, however, it is often used differently. Not only is it a study resource for students, but it is increasingly being used as a social space to meet and chat.

The term “space” is used here to describe a website that works like a community with live interaction and the capacity for your child to chat with others, personalise their space and share information. Each space has a purpose, audience and tool set including those around security and protection. The internet also provides access to websites with information, images videos for students to view.

About the agreement:

In signing this agreement your child will be agreeing to behave in a certain way online and to take appropriate action when and as required. Elements of the agreement are explained below. Please contact the school to clarify or receive additional information.

Be a safe, responsible and ethical user whenever and wherever I use it.

The school’s Student Engagement/Wellbeing Policy outlines the values of the school and expected behaviours when students use the internet and digital technologies at school.

Support others by being respectful in how I communicate with them and never write or participate in online bullying (this includes forwarding messages and supporting others in harmful, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviour).

Being online can make students feel that they are anonymous and students may say things that they would never say to someone’s face. The web space or online chat environment that they use might also have explicit language and they may feel they have to be part of it. Bullying online can take a number of forms from repeated messages to exclusion from social spaces. Students who forward on messages or participate in the exclusion may not see themselves as bullying. These actions also contribute to the hurt and distress of others.

Talk to a teacher if I feel uncomfortable or unsafe online or see others participating in unsafe, inappropriate or hurtful online behaviour.

Incidents online often go unreported. Students have reported their reasons as embarrassment, a belief that online issues are theirs to solve as adults don’t understand and a feeling that reporting it will make it worse. The most common reason given is a fear that they will lose access to their technology.

Students are advised to report an incident if:

- they feel that the welfare of other students at the school is being threatened
- they come across sites which are not suitable for their school
- someone writes something they don’t like, or makes them and their friends feel uncomfortable or asks them to provide information that they know is private
- they accidentally do something which is against the rules and responsibilities they have agreed to.

Seek to understand the terms and conditions of websites and online communities and be aware that content I upload or post creates a digital footprint.

Many websites/spaces have conditions of use, such as ownership of the content and the age of participants. For example: Children under 13 years of age are not permitted access to Facebook. When posting information online - a good rule is “Don’t post what you wouldn’t want your Grandparent, Principal, or future boss to read.”

Protect my privacy rights and those of other students by not giving out personal details including full names, telephone numbers, addresses and images.

Students like to publish information about themselves and their friends in social media like Facebook and blogs. This can put them at risk of being approached, groomed or bullied online.

To avoid this we recommend they:

- don't use their own name, but develop an online name and use avatars
- don't share personal details, including images of themselves or their friends online
- password protect any accounts they have
- don't allow anyone they don't know to join their social media site
- are reminded that any image or comment they put on the internet is now public (anyone can see, change or use it) so no full names should appear in reference to individuals in any image, movie or sound recording
- ALWAYS make the space private so that they can control who sees their space and can communicate with them
- understand the terms and conditions of any website or online community that they might join.

Use the internet at school for educational purposes and use the equipment properly

It is important to realise that there is a time for fun and a time for work even on the internet. Students may often see the internet as 'free' however even just looking at a page on the internet incurs a download cost. By taking care with the equipment, and thinking carefully about printing and downloading from the internet students can save time, money and the environment. Staying on task will reduce the risk of inappropriate access and teach students strategies to use the internet or digital technologies for their learning.

Use social networking sites for educational purposes and only as directed by teachers.

Web 2.0 tools and social media spaces allow students to be contributors to the web and to work collaboratively online with other students. Creating or contributing to blogs, wikis, digital stories and podcasts can all be legitimate educational activities which allow students to publish, share and inform others and be active contributors to the web. It is important for students to understand that working in a collaborative online space as part of a learning task, has a very different purpose to using a social networking space to link up with friends in their own time.

Abide by copyright procedures when using content on websites (ask permission to use images, text, audio and video and cite references where necessary).

Music, information, images and games on the internet are owned by someone. The term copyright is a legal one and there are laws to enforce it. Not only is breaking copyright morally, ethically and legally wrong, it can introduce potential risks. By downloading a 'freebie' you can risk bringing a virus or spyware to the computer or system. These can destroy a computer system or provide hackers with details such as passwords and bank accounts. Peer to peer sharing software like Limewire and Bit-torrent can sometimes share music and files illegally, and make computers vulnerable to virus attack.

Think critically about other users' intellectual property and how I use content posted on the internet, not simply copy and paste information from websites.

Not everything on the internet is true, accurate or unbiased. The school is working to teach digital literacy skills, which enable students to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively on the internet. It is important that your child respects the Intellectual Property of people who contribute resources online. Students should use their own thoughts and language to express what they have learnt, and avoid simply copying and pasting information from the internet.

In school settings, internet service providers set up filters to block out a lot of inappropriate content, but these filters are not always foolproof. Students, who deliberately seek out inappropriate content or use technologies which bypass filters, will have their internet access reviewed and their parent/carers will be immediately informed.

Computer facilities are for the use of all students so due care should be taken at all times when using these resources. Students are responsible for everything done using their accounts, and everything in their home directories. To this end, students need to keep their password secret and not gain access to other students' login details. The school connects all of the computers through a network. The introduction of unknown games or files could introduce viruses, etc and these put all school equipment and student work at risk.

To this end, when using my digital device as a phone, I will:

- Keep my phone at the School Office during class times and only make or answer calls and messages outside of lesson times – except for specified learning purposes.
- Protect the privacy of others and never post private information about another person using Short Message Service (SMS).

When using a digital device as a camera I will:

- Only take photos and record sound or video when it is part of a class or lesson.
- Seek permission from individuals involved before taking photos, recording sound or videoing them (including teachers).
- Seek appropriate (written) permission from individuals involved before publishing or sending photos, recorded sound or video to anyone else or to any online space.
- Be respectful in the photos I take or video I capture and never use these as a tool for bullying.

Mobile phones and digital devices such as iPads are a seamless part of our lives. The school may make use of these digital technologies as a tool to enhance the capacity for learning in a classroom.

The recording of images and sounds can breach students' rights under the Privacy Act. Sometimes students are reluctant to tell their peers that they don't want their image or voice recorded. The Privacy Act says that the posting and sharing of information online or in any other way requires consent.

This consent must be **fully informed, freely given, current** and **specific** in how the information will be presented and who it will be presented to. Schools are required to obtain signed authority for any work, images or information posted online. All citizens need to respect the rights of others to privacy and students are no exception.

Key Discussion Questions for parents to ask

At home we recommend you make some time to find out how your child is using the internet. Make some time to sit with them online and ask questions such as:

- What is it that is so enjoyable about the site you are using? What is the purpose of the site?
- How does it work? How do you set it up? What are the conditions of use?
- Who else is sharing this space? Do you know them or did you 'meet' them online? How can you control who you are networking with?
- Can you see any risks or dangers in the activity? What would you say to warn/inform a younger child?
- What are you doing to protect yourself or your friends from these potential dangers?
- When would you tell an adult about an incident that has happened online? Who would you tell?
- When wouldn't you tell and why not? *Research shows that students are reluctant to report issues and put at risk their internet/phone access.*

Encourage your child to set their profile to 'private' if they use a social networking site like Bebo or Facebook (they are then in control of who can contact them and access their information). Please be aware of the minimum age requirements for accessing social media sites such as Facebook(minimum age is 13 or above).

Ensure that all internet activities occur in a shared place– not your child's bedroom. Negotiate appropriate times for online activities and use of mobile phones. Consider the use of "safe search filters" freely available as settings on Google, Bing etc.

Scenarios for teacher/parent/guardian/student discussion:

What can you do?

- You found the car picture you were searching for, but it includes a naked woman!
- Someone keeps messaging nasty and upsetting comments about you and your friends on your mobile phone.
- A person you met online asks you to give them your full name, phone number and suggests you meet. Is it different if they have been your “friend” for a long time?
- You are sent a message which has been forwarded by someone else. It has embarrassing comments/image about someone you know.
- A game online will only let you play it if you give your name, address, date of birth, etc.
- An online community asks you to sign up and allow the space to “Connect you to all your friends” It wants your email address and password to do this. It needs access to your address book.
- In an online space/chat someone suggests you all exclude /block a classmate.
- Your friend took a video of you and your friends ‘mucking around’ and posted it on a video hosting service like YouTube.
- Your friend has an online profile published (not set to private). You can see their personal details and photos. Other people you know are in the photos.
- A friend tells you about a great site where there is ‘free’ music or a game to download.

If you have any concerns about this agreement or ideas for making the agreement better contact the ICT Co-ordinator.

For further support with online issues students can call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800. Parents/carers can call Parentline 132289 or visit <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/report.aspx>